

Increasing cloudiness; continued warm to-day; rain to-night.

FOUR IN LIVELY SCRAP AT HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

Representative Hamer Chased by Three Secretaries.

HEAVY CANE AS DEFENSE

Capitol Bluecoat Comes to Rescue of Lawmaker.

Dispute Over Right of Way in Corridor Results in Belligerent Encounter—Hamer, in Effort to Escape, Falls and is Overcome by One of Antagonists, Who is Hauled Off Before Doing Any Damage.

A belligerent encounter, which may result in complaints of assault, occurred in the House Office Building at 8 o'clock last night, between three Congressional secretaries, and Representative Thomas K. Hamer, of Idaho.

There was a lively scuffle resulting from a dispute as to right-of-way courtesies in the corridor of the building, accompanied by threatening motions of a heavy cane, and a flow of extremely heated remarks. Turning hastily out of the door to flee from the secretaries, who he apparently considered had become his assailants, Mr. Hamer slipped on the sidewalk and sustained a bad fall.

OVERTAKEN IN STREET.

He was overtaken there by one of the secretaries, who proposed to push the battle to a conclusion, but was hauled off by one of the Capitol police and several persons who had gathered.

The three secretaries were E. S. Glavis, a brother of Louis R. Glavis, of Baltimore; Pinchot investigation frame secretary to Representative Graham, of Pennsylvania; James Smiley, secretary to Representative Dickson, of Mississippi, and William Wallace, secretary to Representative Bowers, of Mississippi.

No blows were struck during the melee. It was evident, however, that things were growing exceedingly warlike when Representative Hamer turned toward the street door of the corridor after taking part in several moments of what is called in the House "acrimonious debate," in which the young secretaries were roundly scolded and charged with ungentlemanly conduct, and in which the Congressman in turn came in for his share of threats and abuse.

The member brandished a heavy cane, which for a few moments was the logical point of the fracas. The combination of cane, the savage growl of a pair of gray eyes in which the fire of anger burned fiercely, and freely flowing exhortation served to keep the Congressman's three enemies at bay until he reached the door.

Slips to Pavement.

Deeming speed the proper commodity to apply to the street walk when the senatorial Hamer turned and ran. He emerged from the door even with the sidewalk, and beside the steps leading up to the front entrance of the building. In rounding these steps he slipped and fell. Glavis, from the secretarial contingent, was following close behind.

Hamer hastily scrambled to his feet in time to meet his assailant. A House building watchman overtook the pair and ordered them apart. Imprecations still flowing somewhat freely from both sides of the contest, the Congressman made his way to the House to attend the night session, and the three secretaries reentered the building.

Details of the near battle did not leak out until late in the evening. Representative Hamer remained at the House until the close of the session at 10:30 o'clock. Then he proceeded to the House office building, entered his office and immediately called the lieutenant of Capitol police in charge of the building, and the door watchman, who witnessed the conflict, into conference.

It was apparent that he was desirous of getting from them the names of his assailants in order to make an investigation, at least, and perhaps file complaints.

In response to questions concerning the encounter, Representative Hamer said he preferred to say nothing.

"The incident is not worth mentioning," said he, "and should be forgotten once by everyone not personally interested in it. I do not care to discuss even its slightest detail."

Shows No Injuries.

The Idaho Representative bore no signs of any injuries received either in the cane run or in his fall. He would give no intimation as to whether he would call for the arrest of the three secretaries.

It was apparent that the young men who engaged in the conflict with Mr. Hamer had been together for some time. They were entering the building in a more or less jovial mood, when Representative Hamer encountered them as he was leaving. The corridor apparently was not wide enough for the meeting contestants. At any rate, a remark was passed, and at a trice the place was exceedingly confined. Loud language arose and threats echoed through the customarily quiet passage ways.

to drop the argument by escaping, the secretaries took after him as he made the sidewalk. Representative Hamer is a tall and wiry individual. He has lived long in the West, and apparently is not altogether unused to fisty arguments. Clavis, Smiley, and Wallace dispersed soon after the occurrence. Smiley was seen in his apartment, near the Capitol at midnight. He was disinclined to talk about the incident of the early evening, beyond remarking that it was only a "skylarking affair," and should not amount to anything.

LANDS IN A STORM.

Balloon, "Miss Sofia," Fails to Break Any Records.

Dover, Mo., Feb. 25.—The 50,000 cubic foot balloon, Miss Sofia, with W. F. Ashman pilot, and J. M. O'Reilly, both of St. Louis, aboard, which left San Antonio, Tex., early last night, with the hope of lifting the Lahm cup, passed over Guthrie, Okla., northward-bound, at 8:40 o'clock this morning in a rain and wind storm, landed at Dover, fifty miles slightly northeast of Kansas City at 6:15 this afternoon.

AMERICAN OPERA FINALLY SCORES

Merited Praise and Success Accorded "Natoma."

MARKS EPOCH IN STAGE MUSIC

Production in English by Victor Herbert and J. E. Redding Worthy of Being Classed as "Grand," Staged in Philadelphia Under Management of Andrea Dippel.

Philadelphia, Feb. 25.—At last "Natoma," an American opera sufficiently grand in conception to be classed as "grand," and successful enough in its effort to be praised honestly, has been produced and warmly welcomed. Not, perhaps, as an absolute realization of what was most hoped of the joint work of Victor Herbert (the composer), and Joseph E. Redding (the librettist), but as an evidence of a determined, earnest effort to put opera set to English words by American musicians in the same rank as foreign opera.

The production of "Natoma" at the Metropolitan Opera House, by the Philadelphia-Chicago Company, under the management of Andrea Dippel, marks a turning point in the young story of American stage music.

Until to-night, and in the present generation, one opera only by a composer of this country had commanded widespread attention. A year ago, when the much-talked-of one-act lyric drama, by Prof. Converse, named "The Pipe of Desire," was presented at the New York Metropolitan, a death blow seemed to have been dealt at all the ardent hopes of those who had looked forward to the upbuilding of a school of native opera.

Brilliant Audience Attends. But now a second effort has been made, and even though it may not in the long run prove triumphant, it has in a large measure shown the adom of persisting in the struggle for the development of opera by the writers and composers of this country.

A large and brilliant audience thronged the house, listened with sympathy to "Natoma," and applauded its performance by the distinguished artists in the cast.

The first act left the issue of the fight in doubt. The second act aroused enthusiasm. The third and last confirmed the favorable impression made already.

The libretto now and then provoked smiles, so did the English sung by certain of the artists. Walker, at 918 F Street; Jeffries, at the Park Hotel; McMahon, at the Fat Men's Club, and Wrenn in Ninth street, between L and M streets, as he was returning to his home.

Each of the men had several hundred dollars in his pockets. Several of those wanted by the police escaped the net, but the police say they will get them in a day or two.

WORKED FOR FIVE WEEKS.

The coup was engineered by Detectives Howe and Messer, of the First precinct, who had been working on the case for the last five weeks. About 2 o'clock Capt. Hollinberger, of the First precinct; Sergeants Lohman, Lee and Catts, and Privates Lile, Owen, Thompson, Connors, Bobo, Donnelly, P. Metz, Ward, and McDonald left the station house and set out to capture the suspects. The police broke up into small squads, and entered all the places where they supposed they could catch the men at about the same time.

Weinberg was arrested at his house, 910 E street; Waldeck was found in Posters' saloon, in Ninth street, between D and E streets; Walker, at 918 F Street; Jeffries, at the Park Hotel; McMahon, at the Fat Men's Club, and Wrenn in Ninth street, between L and M streets, as he was returning to his home.

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ROPER GETS INTO TROUBLE.

About half an hour after the men had been locked up, Amos A. Roper, a former member of the police force, came into the station to see Weinberg. It is claimed he became abusive, and was locked up charged with disorderly conduct. He was released on \$5 bail.

Last night "plain clothes" men scoured the city in the hope of getting others whom the police say are running handbooks, but up to a late hour they were not arrested. Detectives Howe and Messer, of the First precinct, have been working under orders from Maj. Sylvester, who is explaining evidence against the men, and the arrests were the outcome of this investigation.

SIX HANDBOOK MEN IN POLICE DRAGNET

Quiet Investigation by Detectives Followed by Coup. Some of the Suspects Get Away, but Their Capture Is Assured.

Six alleged handbook men—incidentally charged with making bets on horse races—were gathered in by the police of the First precinct yesterday afternoon, in what had been intended as a well-planned coup by which wholesale arrests were expected.

The men under arrest gave their names for entrance on the station house blotter as Ralph Waldeck, Ellis Weinberg, Bayard Wrenn, Albert Walker, William O. Jefferies, and Arthur McMahon.

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FORTIFIED CANAL FAVORED BY HOUSE

Decisive Vote When Item Comes Up in Sundry Bill.

The Panama Canal is to be fortified. By a vote of 123 to 81, on roll call, the House of Representatives last night emphatically registered its will on that question. It is expected that the Senate will concur without delay, and that with the signing by the President of the sundry civil bill, containing \$3,000,000 for beginning the defense works, the policy of the United States with relation to the canal and to the other nations of the world, will be settled for all time.

By a decisive majority, the amendment offered by Chairman Tawney, of the Appropriations Committee, proposing diplomatic negotiations looking to the neutralization of the waterway prior to the expenditure of money for fortifications was beaten, as were other amendments intended to render ineffective the canal appropriation paragraph or to delay the beginning of the defense work for an indefinite period.

Of all the thousands and one items in the great sundry bill carrying more than \$15,000,000, which passed the House of Representatives at 10:30 last night, the one item that attracted the most attention, excited the greatest interest, and received the most debate was this \$3,000,000 for canal fortifications.

Some of the best speeches that have been heard in the House of Representatives this session were made on the subject. Mr. Tawney, who is opposed to the fortification of the canal, as he is opposed to the expenditure of vast sums of money for war purposes of all kinds, made a hard fight to defeat the fortifica-

RUTS IN STREETS DUE TO NEGLECT OF CITY RAILWAYS

Central Citizens Complain of Constant Menace.

DANGER TO VEHICLES Pavements in Bad Condition in All Sections of District.

Franchise Laws Covering Matter Persistently Violated by Failure to Properly Repair Asphalt Between and Near Tracks—Capt. Mark Brooke Admits Protests Are Justified and Founded on Facts.

That in persistent violation of the franchise laws covering the matter, street railways of Washington continue to neglect to properly repair pavements over which their lines run, entailing danger and annoyance to pedestrians and ruining the appearance of the streets, was charged yesterday afternoon by members of the Federation of Citizens' Associations, who will carry their allegations to the Commissioners immediately.

Associations all over the city have appealed to the central body for satisfaction in the matter, claiming that not for years have the streets been allowed to remain in the condition noted at present.

MENACE TO VEHICLES. Louis P. Shoemaker, president of the Brightwood Citizens' Association, said yesterday that the matter had been called to his attention by the existing conditions on Georgia avenue, where for blocks the car tracks are exposed, a constant menace to vehicles and foot passengers.

"I have known of several accidents in the last few weeks," Mr. Shoemaker said.

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WOUNDS FRIEND SHOOTING TARGET. Special to The Washington Herald. Roanoke, Va., Feb. 25.—While shooting at a target this afternoon with a .22 caliber hair trigger magazine rifle, Thomas Kain, president of the Casper distilling company, accidentally shot H. W. Clarke, manager of the Roanoke branch of the Pintsch Gas Company. The ball struck Clarke in the left breast and lodged in the lungs. Clarke has a slight chance of recovery.

Singers to Visit White House. Copenhagen, Feb. 25.—The Danish Students' Choral Society will shortly make a tour of the United States, and will sing at the White House. It is the finest body of singers in Northern Central Europe. Its membership includes the most prominent soloists of the opera house here.

Protect Persons from Suicides. Chicago, Feb. 25.—Owners of sixteen office buildings in the loop district having roundabouts more than three stories in height were to-day ordered to stretch screens across the second floor openings to protect persons on the main floor from suicides who might leap on them. Three days are given for them to begin work.



PRESIDENT MAKES A VIGOROUS PLEA FOR THE DISTRICT

Strikes Popular Keynote at Testimonial Dinner to Representative Gardner.

TOUCHES UPON A NUMBER OF TOPICS

Would Like to See a Resident of Capital Ride on Public Ground From Potomac Park Through Rock Creek and Soldiers' Home to the Capitol.

If citizens of the District of Columbia have had cause to complain in the past because of the subordination of District affairs to other matters of state by Congress, they could have had no just complaint along like lines last night, at the testimonial dinner of Washington official and private circles to Representative Washington Gardner, of Michigan, the retiring chairman of the District sub-committee on appropriations.

President Taft, members of the municipal administration, past and future dictators of the District's treatment by Congress, laid aside the broadest questions of national welfare, and paid almost exclusive attention to the "hopes and fears of future years" of citizens of the District.

ALL PHASES COVERED.

No possible project or hope of the future, of phases of the administration of the District in the past, was left untouched. And no speaker displayed naught but the most feeling interest in, and studious knowledge of, the questions which the citizens of the District are daily turning over in their minds.

If solutions were not reached or promises made in the questions, at least the speakers offered an open, unbiased mind for the consideration of all District matters.

Never since the memorable dinner to him by the citizens of the District two years ago, has President Taft taken occasion to avow himself so exclusively on District matters, as he did last night. And the most enthusiastic—if conscientious—advocate for the District could not have shown a much greater knowledge of the main questions affecting the welfare of the Nation's Capital. The title of "Mayor of Washington," which has been applied to President Taft, which was justly earned by his evident affection for his present place of residence.

Indorsed by President Taft, the advocacy of the eloquent John W. Yerkes for a single committee of the House to care for each District matter. Instead of the present system of dividing up appropriations questions and other District affairs, was the most striking reform proposed. Perhaps the keynote most often struck by the speakers—President Taft, Speaker Cannon, Mr. Yerkes, and the guest of honor, Mr. Gardner—was the idea of the unwisdom of suffrage for the District of Columbia.

Mr. Taft's Address. President Taft said, in part: "I come here to join with you in testifying to the gratitude that we all ought to feel to a member of Congress who has given so much effective attention and so much of his time in Congress to the benefit of the District. There is a great deal to attend to in Congress. There is a good deal to attend to in each District matter. It is a very little thing that is done for the District that adds the particular Congressman in his re-election. The consequence is that the work which is done by Congress for the District comes nearer being prompted by pure disinterestedness and patriotism and love of the Capital than anything else that is done."

"That is the reason why you are here, and that is the reason why I am here, perhaps Mr. Gardner had not devoted so much time to the District, and a little more time to the benighted members of his district, he might not have been here to-night, but he would have been here next month. That is not the only reason why I am glad to testify to my respect for Mr. Gardner. He is going out, and the day after tomorrow he holds, temporarily, an office, after he is half through, a sort of sympathy with those who are going out."

"So man who has the opportunity of walking through the Capital every day or every week, and who has any eyes for the beautiful at all, can help stopping at every corner in this city of great present beauty and of magnificent possibilities, without studying the methods and the means for improving this place that we all love as a national expression of liberty and the institutions of liberty. I vary my walk every day: First around the Monument, and then up to the Capitol, and in my mind's eye I try to see that Bureau of Engraving and Printing with nothing substituted for it that does not look like a factory. I want to see that Hall put through, and that memorial bridge and that Lincoln memorial; and I want to be able if I get on horseback, and haven't legs enough to carry me, to ride from the Potomac Park round into Rock Creek, and then through the Soldiers' Home, and then around into the Capitol grounds—all on public ground."

Not as a Criticism. "I am not criticizing Congress. Congress has a very hard time. There are so many different things to do that I think on the whole I agree with the Speaker—that the District gets a great deal of the time of Congress. Sometimes it seems as if Congress were naggarly. I think so every once in a while, but the truth is, and we have got to recognize it, the judgment of the many intelligent is better than the judgment of one man all the time, and in the end under our system of government, as you look back over a decade, you see a wonderful degree of accomplishment and of effective accomplishment, such as to justify the confidence we have in popular government."

It has been my fortune, or misfortune, to partake in a number of discussions as to the proper government of the District. I observe that the Speaker called for the raising of hands as to those who desire a local self-government in Washington. I suppose many of you were modest and did not advance your real views on that subject.

"At least I judge from a recent meeting that I attended that there were views to the contrary, and some persons thought that we ought to have a local self-government, provided, and I suppose the Speaker had that in mind) they could arrange that that local self-government should be. It is clumsy to depend upon a great body like Congress to live up and understand the needs of the District, and I do think that Congress does not take enough of her power in the matter of taxation and in the matter of appropriations so as to treat the District appropriations in a somewhat different manner from that in which she treats the appropriations for the general purposes of the government. The details of such a nature in a city government that the rules of the House and the rules of the Senate hardly apply to the District appropriation bill, and I should think that some distinction might be made with respect to such a bill."

The Lincoln Memorial. "Something has been said about the Lincoln memorial. We have made great progress. We have created a national art commission, a commission to which all these plans for improvement can be properly referred, and from whom we shall receive the suggestions of men of great ability, of great professional skill, and with an earnest desire to make this city the most beautiful in the world. We may not always agree with that art commission. I do not say that they are infallible. They may admit it, but I do not concede it, but that we ought never to proceed with any work of this kind without their fullest consideration and advice, every one who understands how a great business ought to be carried on must admit."

Now, as to the memorial bridge. I sincerely hope that this Congress may be induced, and I know there is a movement on foot for that purpose, to authorize some commission—perhaps the Lincoln Memorial Commission—to look into the question of having the memorial built. I have always had a theory that the memorial bridge and the Lincoln memorial might well be united or associated together on one side of the Mall, looking over to Arlington on one side, to Washington's Monument and to the Capitol on the other, and when that is done, if that proves to be the plan you can be certain that the Mall is established for all time.

"I do not know why it is that Michigan seems to produce good men for the District of Columbia. You remember Senator McMillan, and know how much he contributed to the city of Washington. Every time I take a meal and every time I go to bed now, I think of Senator McMillan, for it was to him that was due the appropriation that enabled McKim to make over the White House and make it the most suitable and the most dignified residence for the Chief Executive in the world."

Friends of the District. "Now, there is no better friend of the District than Brother Burdson. I should be glad at all time as I do now, to testify to his disinterested zeal in behalf of the District. He came to see me when I had on me the burden of selecting two District Commissioners, and he helped me in every way to secure the best men I could."

In going all over this city one is struck by the idea, and I believe Congress realizes it, that the money cannot all be contributed at once, and probably it is better that it should not be, and that the plans should be worked out gradually, and that while we have a plan and while we work toward it, we may by waiting acquire experience as to what we need and more knowledge, and all join together in the team work that is necessary to make this the most beautiful city in the world."

John F. Elmore Dead. New York, Feb. 25.—John F. Elmore, former United States Minister to Peru, died suddenly at the Astor House to-day, aged seventy.

Palm Beach, Miami, and Cuba. Via Atlantic Coast Line, leaves 7:30 p. m. Three other ways, leaving Superior road-way and service. 115 New York ave. n. w.